

Application Serial No.: 09/591,687

Attorney Docket No.: 47004.000074

THE CLAIMS

The following is a listing of the claims, which are presented in accordance with revised 37 C.F.R. §1.121.

1. (Currently amended) A method for providing accessibility to a plurality of remote service providers across a network via a single login to a host service provider, each of the plurality of remote service providers being accessible through the host service provider and each of the plurality of remote service providers having separate login procedures requiring data, the method comprising the steps of:

the host service provider receiving the single login from a user, the host service provider having a universal session manager;

the universal session manager retrieving data from a validation database based on the single login to the host service provider, wherein the data is effective for accessing a selected one of the plurality of remote service providers, and wherein the data is based at least in part on the single login;

the universal session manager transmitting said data to the remote service provider, the universal session manager and the remote service provider exchanging the data to effect a two-sided authentication; and

the host service provider directing the user to the remote service provider in such manner that the user is presented with information in a single graphical user interface, that is provided by both the host service provider and the remote service provider.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of connecting to a trusted service provider having special access requirements, wherein

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a trusted service module acts as an intermediary between the host service provider and the trusted service provider.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the trusted service module receives a sessionID from the trusted service provider.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the trusted service module places a text file on the user's network data acquisition module.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said text file comprises a cookie.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of registering the user with the remote service provider.

7. (Currently amended) A system for providing accessibility to a plurality of remote service providers via a single login to a host service provider, each of the plurality of remote service providers being accessible through the host service provider and each of the plurality of remote service providers having separate login procedures requiring data, the system comprising:

a user system having a network data acquisition module;

a plurality of remote service providers;

a host service provider for receiving the single login, the host service provider having a universal session manager;

the universal session manager receiving data from a validation database based on the single login to the host service provider, the universal session manager passing the data, which is required for access to the remote service provider, directly to the remote service provider, the universal session manager and the remote service provider exchanging the data to effect a two-

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sided authentication, the two-sided authentication being performed directly between the universal session manager and the remote service provider; and

the validation database for storing the data for accessing the remote service provider, the universal session manager communicating with the validation database to obtain the data; and

wherein the host service provider directs the user to the selected one of the plurality of remote service providers using the data.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 7, said validation database further storing information for registering the user with the remote service provider.

10. (Original) The system of claim 7, further comprising a trusted service module that serves as an intermediary between the host service module and a trusted service provider.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said trusted service provider is a remote service provider with special access requirements.

12. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the network data acquisition module is an Internet browser.

13. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the remote service provider further comprises a registration module and a login module.

14. (Currently amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the login module receives the data for gaining access to the services provided by the remote service provider; and wherein the host service provider directing the user to the selected one of the plurality of remote service providers using the data includes presenting the user with information, in a single graphical user interface, that is provided by both the host service provider and the remote service provider.

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15. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the registration module receives the data for registering a user with the remote service provider.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the two-sided authentication is a triple handshake, the triple handshake including:
the universal session manager sending a username and password to the remote service provider constituting a login request;
the remote service provider sending the universal session manager a reply to the login request; and
the universal session manager directing the user to the remote service provider.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the remote service provider is a distinct remote site from the host service provider, and each step of the triple handshake is effected directly between the universal session manager and the remote service provider.

18. (Currently amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the two-sided authentication is a triple handshake, each step of the triple handshake being performed directly between the universal session manager and the remote service provider.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the validation database transmits data to the universal session manager of the host service provider indicating which services the user is enrolled.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the host service provider receiving the single login from the user is performed over a network.

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21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 7, wherein the validation database transmits data to the universal session manager of the host service provider indicating which services the user is enrolled.

22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the host service provider has control of a navigation bar in the graphical user interface, and web pages from the remote service provider are hosted in the graphical user interface and contain a navigation bar.